

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PFOR ELAB VE

SUBJ: CTV CONGRESS UPDATE

REF: CARACAS 3347, 3762

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE FIFTEEN- MEMBER CTV EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO BE CHOSEN AT THE VII CONGRESS WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING PARTY BREAKDOWN: AD-8; COPEI-3; MEP-3; URD-1. AD'S JOSE VARGAS WILL BE THE CTV PRESIDENT. THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP IS A TOSSUP BETWEEN COPEI AND MEP WITH A YOUNGER ADECO AS A DARK HORSE. FOREIGN DELEGATIONS, MOST IMPORTANTLY FROM THE AFL-CIO AND THE CUBAN CTC, HAVE ARRIVED. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS WIDELY REPORTED TO BE PREPARING SOME SORT OF AN ECONOMIC BOMB-SHELL FOR EITHER HIS APRIL 25 OR HIS MAY 1 SPEECH BEFORE THE CTV CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WILL INAUGURATE THE VII CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) THE EVENING OF APR 25. ON THE MORNING OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW FIFTEEN-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE CTV IS BEGINNING TO FALL INTO PLACE. ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD, WITH 53PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES) WILL RECEIVE EIGHT POSITIONS, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS (COPEI, 20PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES) AND THE MOVIMIENTO ELECTORAL DEL PUEBLOS (MEP, 19 PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES) WILL RECEIVE THREE POSITIONS APIECE WHILE THE UNION REPUBLICANA DEMOCRATICA (URD) 7 PER-  
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CENT OF THE DELEGATES) WILL RECEIVE ONE POSITION. THE MOVEMENT TO

SOCIALISM (MAS), THE FDP, AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA (PCV) COMBINED WILL FIELD FEWER THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES. THEY MIGHT BE GIVEN A MAS "VOCAL" AS A SOP TO CTV UNIVERSALITY.

2. JOSE VARGAS IS FIRM AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE CTV. THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE WITNESSED AN ACRIMONIOUS STRUGGLE BETWEEN COPEI AND MEP OVER THE NO 2 SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION. AD HAS BEEN LEFT THE ARBITER IN THE DEBATE OVER WHO IS THE "SECOND FORCE." THE PICTURE HAS BEEN FURTHER COMPLICATED BY GROWING SENTIMENT AMONG MANY AD FAITHFUL THAT BOTH OF THE TOP TWO JOBS SHOULD GO TO ADECOS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. THIS SOLUTION MUST BE APPEALING TO CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, THE AD EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (CEN), AND VARGAS, ALL OF WHOM COULD PLACE A PLAGUE ON BOTH OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION HOUSES WHILE HEALING WOUNDS WITHIN AD BY GIVING ONE OF THE YOUNGER AD GENERATION (CARLOS LUNA OR ISMARIO GONZALEZ) THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. HOWEVER, SUCH A MOVE WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH A POWERFUL CTV TRADITION OF ACCOMMODATING MINORITY GROUPS AND KEEPING THEM WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION BY GIVING THEM HIGH POSITIN. OSTENSIBLY, THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE RESOLVED AT THE PARTY CAUCUSES ON APR 26. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS BEEN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS WHOLE PROCESS, DEVOTING A GOOD DEAL OF THE WEEK TO MEETINGS WITH AD LABOR LEADERS.

3. FOREIGN DELEGATIONS HAVE ARRIVED, MOST IMPORTANTLY THE INTER-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFL-CIO, ANDREW MCCLELLAND, AND ANTONIO LOPEZ, AGAPITO FIGUEROA, AND ARMANDO SUAREZ SALAZAR OF THE CUBAN LABOR CENTRAL (CTC). MCCLELLAND HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED, PARTICULARLY BY THE AD LEADERS OF THE CTV. JOSE VARGAS SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WITH MCCLELLAND ON THE NIGHT OF HIS ARRIVAL AFTER HAVING SENT FORMER CTV PRESIDENT JOSE GONZALEZ NAVARRO TO THE AIRPORT TO RECEIVE HIM. TO DATE THE CUBANS HAVE BEEN MOSTLY SEEN WITH THEIR COPEI SPONSOR, RAFAEL LEON LEON, ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CTV.

4. PRESS SPECULATION HAS BEEN RAMPANT CONCERNING ANNOUNCEMENTS PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL MAKE DURING HIS SPEECHES AT THE APR 25 INAUGURAL AND THE MAY 1 CLOSING CEREMONIES OF THE CTV CONGRESS. SPECULATION HAS INCLUDED SUCH ITEMS AS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW CTV BUILDING (A SURE THING), A DECREE OBLIGING ALL EMPLOYERS IMMEDIATELY TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT BY FIVE WORKERS FOR EVERY HUNDRED WORKERS WHETHER NEEDED OR NOT, REQUIREMENTS THAT SEVERANCE PAY BE SEGREGATED IN SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AS EARNED, ANOTHER ROUND OF MANDATORY SALARY INCREASES FOR LOWER WAGE WORKERS, ETC.

5. COMMENT. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS ALMOST BOUND TO BE THE STAR

OF THE SHOW AND SOME SPECTACULAR ECONOMIC ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT  
WELL BE FORTHCOMING AS HIS SPECIAL DECREE POWER APPROACHES  
ITS EXPIRATION DATE.  
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